

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SY-05 MCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02

A-01 USSS-00 MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /075 W

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R 021500Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2474

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARTINIQUE 0504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PINS, BB, MP

SUBJECT: BENNETT-ALLEYNE TRIAL

REF: MARTINIQUE 492

1. IN A CONVERSATION SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL, THE HEAD OF THE LOCAL DST (COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE) TOLD US THAT AT PRESENT HE HAS LITTLE HOPE OF LEARNING THE WHOLE STORY OF THE ARMS SMUGGLING ADVENTURE. HE BELIEVES THE OPERATION WAS WELL-FINANCED, IF POORLY ORGANIZED, AND THAT BENNETT-ALLEYNE HAD CONTACTS IN THE FRENCH ANTILLES WHO, HOWEVER, HE THINKS HAVE NOW FLED. BENNETT-ALLEYNE HAS SO FAR REMAINED STUBBORNLY SILENT AND THE FRENCH INVESTIGATORS HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF GETTING MUCH MORE INFO FROM HIM. BENNETT-ALLEYNE IS, MOREOVER, HIGHLY UNSTABLE, AND THIS SEEMS TO HAVE CONFUSED THE INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE INTERROGATED HIM. HE SEEMED TO HAVE MISLED THE BOAT OWNER, CLOUSTON, INTO THINKING THAT THE OPERATION WAS A CIA BACKED AFFAIR. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THE FRENCH ARE NOT RPT NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE CIA ALLEGATION, BUT THE DST HEAD AGREED THAT EITHER BENNETT-ALLEYNE OR CLOUSTON MAY PRODUCE THE CIA ANGLE IN THEIR STORY AT THE TRIAL WHICH IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY.

2. IF BENNETT-ALLEYNE TESTIFIES TO CIA INVOLVEMENT DURING THE TRIAL, THE MATTER IS SURE TO GET LOCAL PUBLICITY AND BE PICKED UP
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BY THE MEDIA IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE TRIAL IS, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE

A SHORT ONE AND THE IMPACT OF THE CHARGES SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED, ESPECIALLY IF IT APPEARS THAT BENNETT AND/OR CLOUSTON ARE NOT CREDIBLE. I HAVE ASKED THE DST HEAD TO KEEP ME INFORMED ABOUT ANY OF BENNETT-ALLEYNE'S INTENTIONS WHICH COME TO HIS ATTENTION, AND IF THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, I WILL ASK HIM OR THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, IF THEY SEE ANY WAY TO DISCREDIT ANY CHARGES BENNETT MAY MAKE ABOUT CIA CONNECTIONS. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME CONCEIVABLE WAY TO AVOID HAVING THE MATTER ARISE.
SHACKLETON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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